

Senator Stuart Symington

14 August 1970

GLC

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear

I was most disturbed by your letter of 31 July enclosing a column from the Springfield Leader and Press entitled "CIA and Savagery.

As you may know, I have been a member of the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee for many years and it disturbs me greatly every time I read or hear charges such as the ones contained in that column.

As the article itself indicates, CIA is accused of everything from revolutions abroad, to assassinations and murders, to infiltrating American college campuses. I am in close contact with the Agency and its Director, Mr. Richard Helms, and I have the utmost confidence in him. Although the Agency as a matter of policy does not comment officially on these various allegations concerning its activities, I can assure you that Mr. Helms would not be a part of any such scheme as alleged in this column.

I hope the above will allay any fears that you might have about CIA involvement in the My Lai incident. If I can be of further assistance to you, don't hesitate to let me know.

Act on page two which provides that the Agency " . . . shall have no police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers, or internal-security functions . . . ."

I trust that you will find this information useful. Your good wishes are much appreciated.